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Case WM 128

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Andreas Hasselgruber et al

Title: MULTI-PART HARDTOP-VEHICLE ROOF

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Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 9, 2003

SIR:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - SECTION 1.97(b)

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants' representative hereby submits US Patent & Trademark Office Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted for consideration in the examination of the above-referenced patent application. It is respectfully requested that they be made of record, along with whatever references the Examiner may find in the course of a search, should the Examiner consider them material to the subject application.

FR 2 791 007 was considered to represent the closest state of the art and has therefore been discussed in detail in the introductory part of the application. It has also been cited in the German examination proceedings.

The other references have been cited in the international search report. With the exception of US 6 131 988, they were marked "A" as relating only to background information.

US 6 131 988 was marked "X" with respect to claim 1 and 2. However, claim 1 has been amended with a view to define the invention more distinctly.

The references do not disclose that in a hardtop vehicle roof which is movable between a closed position, in which it covers a vehicle interior, and a storage position and which includes rigid roof shells which, in the closed position, are disposed end to end adjacent one another, at least one of the roof shells includes a center section and side sections which are pivotally connected to the center section and the center sections are displaced in the storage position of the roof shells upwardly relative to the respective side sections so as to be received within one of the roof shells thereby to reduce the volume required for the storage of the roof shells in the storage position thereof.

This Statement is hereby submitted under Section 1.97(b) since it is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,



Klaus J. Bach, Reg. No.: 26832

FORM PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. <b>WM 128</b>		SERIAL NO.	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT		<b>Andreas Hasselgruber et al.</b>			
(Use several sheets if necessary)		FILING DATE		GROUP			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EX. IN.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILINGDATE IF APPROPRIATE
		<b>6 131 988</b>	<b>10/17/00</b>	<b>Queveau et al.</b>			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES      NO
		<b>2 791 007</b>	<b>09/22/00</b>	<b>FR</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>0 993 979</b>	<b>04/19/00</b>	<b>EP</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>0 835 779</b>	<b>04/15/98</b>	<b>EP</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS ( Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.